

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 9 and 18 as set forth below.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) An arrangement for stimulating a heart, comprising in combination: a surgical pledget for being secured to the heart; and

a heartwire comprising a wire having a proximal end and a distal end, at least part of the distal end being conductive so as to be usable in heart stimulation, and having an end structure comprising an irregular or three-dimensional,atraumatic structure adapted for engaging said surgical pledget when secured to the heart, for maintaining said heartwire in position relative to said surgical pledget and thereby relative to the heart;

wherein said surgical pledget is fastened to a myocardium of a heart by a suture at a first end of said pledget and a second end of said pledget and said heartwire being disposed between said pledget and an epicardium of said heart being adapted for non-invasively maintaining said distal end in position adjacent the heart.

10. (Original) The arrangement of claim 9, wherein said end structure comprises at least one of a pigtail, a hook, a tine and a suture sized and shaped for engaging said pledget so as to maintain said heartwire in said position.

11. (Original) The arrangement of claim 9, further comprising a second wire having a corresponding proximal end and distal end;

attached to the distal end of the second wire, a second end structure adapted for non-invasively maintaining said distal end in position adjacent the heart;

wherein said second end structure comprises an irregular or three-dimensional, atraumatic structure adapted for engaging a surgical pledget secured to the heart, for maintaining said heartwire in position relative to said surgical material.

12. (Original) The arrangement of claim 11, further comprising a second surgical pledget for being secured to the heart for engaging the distal end of the second wire.

13.-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A surgical heart stimulation system, comprising in combination a chest tube and at least one heartwire secured thereto;

said heartwire or heartwires each comprising a wire having a proximal end and a distal end, at least part of the distal end being conductive so as to be usable in heart stimulation; and

further comprising a surgical pledget ~~for being~~ removably attached to said distal end of said wire and to a myocardium of a heart, said surgical pledget being adapted for non-invasively maintaining said distal end in position adjacent the heart;

attached to said distal end of each said heartwire, an end structure comprising an irregular or three-dimensional, atraumatic structure adapted for engaging said surgical pledget when secured to the heart, for maintaining said heartwire in position relative to said surgical pledget and to said heart.

19. (Original) The combination of claim 18, wherein said end structure comprises at least one of a pigtail, a hook, a tine and a suture sized and shaped for engaging said pledget so as to maintain said heartwire in said position.

20. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 18, wherein said heartwire is secured to said chest tube by an elongated structure attached to said chest tube,

wherein said elongated structure is removable from said chest tube while still maintaining said heartwire in position relative to said surgical pledget and to said heart.

21.-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Original) The combination of claim 20, wherein said heartwire is removable from said elongated structure while still maintaining said heartwire in position relative to said surgical pledget and to said heart.

27.-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 18, further comprising at least one anesthesia delivery tube attached to said chest tube for delivering post-operative local anesthesia to the chest cavity of the patient.

30. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 18, further comprising at least one additional wire attached to said chest tube for carrying cardiac output monitoring signals.

31.-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Original) In combination, a chest tube and a heartwire secured thereto;

 said heartwire comprising a wire having a proximal end and a distal end, at least part of the distal end being conductive so as to be usable in heart stimulation; and

 attached to said distal end, an end structure comprising an irregular or three-dimensional, atraumatic structure adapted for engaging a surgical material secured to the heart, for maintaining said heartwire in position relative to said surgical material and to said heart;

wherein said heartwire is disposed in a groove formed in a peripheral wall of said chest tube.

37. (Original) The combination of claim 36, wherein said heartwire is removable from said groove while still maintaining said heartwire in position relative to said surgical material and to said heart.

38. (Original) The combination of claim 37, wherein said groove is covered by a film which encloses said heartwire in said groove and is releasable for removing said heartwire from said groove.

39. (Original) In combination, a chest tube and a heartwire secured thereto;

 said heartwire comprising a wire having a proximal end and a distal end, at least part of the distal end being conductive so as to be usable in heart stimulation; and

 said chest tube having a proximal end and a distal end;

 said proximal end of said heartwire being secured to the proximal end of said chest tube;

 said distal end of said heartwire being free of said distal end of said chest tube for being extendable to a portion of the patient's chest cavity remote from the chest tube.